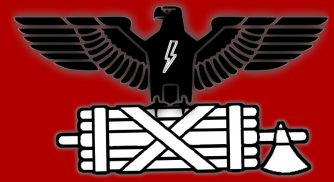




THE BLACKSHIRT



WWW.NEWBRITISHUNION.CO.UK

NBU

"A NEW MACHINE,
A NEW NATION,
A NEW UNION."



WWW.NEWBRITISHUNION.CO.UK

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION

EDITORS NOTE

A General election is upon us, and this one is a one issue election. Leave the EU or stay within the EU.

Vote Conservative/BrexitParty to stay or vote labour/lib-dims/SNP/Green Marxist Collective to stay.

The reality of course is that nothing will change, in or out the hard working decent law-abiding people will still be sucked dry by excess tax payments. Somebody has to pay the work shy, the scroungers, the benefit cheats, overseas aid, politicians outrageous wages and expenses, the welfare state, housing for immigrants and on and on the list has become endless.

The political class have long since abandoned the true people of Britain. Voting, no matter what they tell you, is going to change nothing.

My advice, write FASCISM NEXT TIME - PEOPLE NOT POLITICIANS across your useless ballot paper. Let them see we are here and we are not going away, we will not play their 'false democratic game'.

CONTENTS

OCTOBER 2019

OSWALD MOSLEY IN SCOTLAND

PARISH COUNCILS

HAVE YOUR SAY

BUF IN EAST HAM

NEW APPOINTMENT

CHAPTER 1

FOUNDING OF THE BRITISH FASCISTI

The Blackshirt is a FREE publication. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those held by either The Blackshirt, this publication's editor, or by anyone else associated with the publication itself.

This publication and its editor reserve the right to edit any and all contents when and where considered necessary. All artwork, photographs and articles remain the intellectual property of the original artists and photographers.

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION

Oswald Mosley in Scotland

When Mosley launched his 'New Party,' the precursor of the British Union of Fascists, it was active in Scotland virtually from the outset. A series of public meetings were held in Glasgow and even in 1931 the red rabble showed the same commitment to 'free speech' as their present day counterparts.

Rather than try to engage Mosley in rational debate they set out instead to smash up his meetings. What they did not reckon on was Mosley's charisma and fearless courage, as this report from the Daily Record illustrates.

'For five minutes yesterday I thought that Shettleston would be Sir Oswald Mosley's burial place. Shettleston Town Hall, Glasgow, was packed. The voice of the people was loud and angry. "Bring us Mosley" they chanted, and when the leader of the New Party arrived they swarmed around him breathing into his face the promise... "We'll hand Mosley by the neck in the Gallowgate."

'The most articulate of the acrimonious jumped up on Mosley's platform and threw out the challenge... "There's fifty polis (police) hidden here... What chance do we have against them?" "Fifty polis," repeated a woman in the front row as her friend cried "Traitor" at Sir Oswald.

Then someone settled the issue. "Send away your polis. Come outside an' see what'll happen." Even to my innocent

ears this did not seem the most pleasing invitation.

'But Britain's all round champion smiled. "I never asked for police protection," he declared. "I never asked for police protection in my life."

'Quite definitely there were fifty 'polis' who nobody wanted so Mosley went outside and sat on a chair while the proletariat surged towards him. "Hey Oswald" they cried "Is it true you pay super-tax? Hey Oswald ye dirty dog!"

'Mosley dealt with all the questions his hostile audience threw at him and slowly the mood of the crowd turned. "Aye that's right, speak up Oswald. You're gemme (game) anyway, we'll say that for you." That finished any prospect of bloodshed. A hundred voices chanted "Hey Oswald" and then they swept him forward to his car.'

Sir Oswald left Shettleston smiling. Behind him, men who had sworn deep oaths to let Mosley see what Glasgow thought of him stood speechless and amazed. What had happened? Why did they let him go?

Support for Mosley came from all sections of Scottish society. In the same month as the Shettleston Town Hall

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION

meeting he was nominated for the rectorship of Glasgow University. Although Mosley failed to win the contest his candidature was supported by the well-known writer George Bernard Shaw. Indeed, Shaw's view of the contest shows that even in the 1930's, Glasgow University was inhabited by the same kind of creatures which prowl its corridors in the present day. He wrote, "They only show that our seats of learning and culture are the only places where representatives of learning and culture are invariably at the bottom of the poll, and the vulgarist available party careerist at the top."

The red scum were not prepared to allow Mosley's popularity to continue to spread in the face of their campaign of lies and hatred. A new way of stopping Mosley in Scotland was needed and this they hoped could be achieved by recruiting among the Jewish-dominated razor gangs of Glasgow's Gorbals for allies in a new anti-Mosley alliance.

After a giant open air rally on Glasgow Green (the Times newspaper estimated the crowd at 40,000), Mosley and his leading officers were attacked by a 500-strong gang of razor-wielding Communists who went on to fight pitched battles with the police.

It was this event more than any other which was to precipitate the major change in Mosley's political life.

On his return to London the New Party executive was hurriedly summoned. Mosley was brief: "We need no longer hesitate to create our trained and disciplined force. From today we are Fascist."



FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION



Town and parish councils are the first level of local government. They provide communities with a democratic voice and a structure for taking community action. More than a third of people in England currently have a town or parish council, and the government is making it easier to set one up.

How can I take part?

To set up your own town or parish council, you'll need to first give your local authority a petition containing the signatures of at least 7.5% of the local population.

The petition must:

- state exactly what it proposes: creating a parish or town council for a defined area
- contain the signatures of at least 7.5% of local electors, based on the most recent electoral register - you'll need more signatures for areas with fewer

- than 2,500 electors

If the petition is valid, your local authority will carry out a 'community governance review' to see if a local council should be created.

A neighbourhood forum that's had a neighbourhood development plan passed at referendum can trigger a community governance review without needing a petition.

You can get more information and advice about what you need to do from the National Association of Local Councils' (NALC) Create a Council site or you can contact your County Association of Local Councils. Each county has its own association. You can find contact details on the NALC website.

For London, contact NALC direct. You may be able to get funding from them to help with this. You can also read about what happens after a petition is submitted in 'Guidance on Community Governance Reviews' which explains how local authorities should review the petitions.

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION

HAVE YOUR SAY

Message; I have been following NBU for some years now and have to say how impressed I am that no matter what is thrown at them they just dust themselves down move on and get stronger! They have been proven right on their approach to politics, keep it local and non-party political, independent candidates are gaining seats with the result that fascist sentiment is increasing building real foundations. The future is bright, the future is fascist.

ROBERT WESTON

Message; Thought your readers would like an example of how we can make a difference. At my last parish Council meeting the first proposal on the agenda was 'how much funds should be allocated to hold a LGTB event in the village'. While council members all started plucking figures out of the air I got to ask questions such as. Had anybody been asked if they wanted such an event held in the village? Who exactly would benefit from such an event?

Was there in fact even an LGTB community in the village?

If there were gay people in the village would they be happy being 'outed' by the council?

What would be the benefit of promoting homosexual life styles, as seen on Gay Pride events around the UK, to the village?

Shouldn't what funds we may have be used to equally benefit the village and

all that live here not just a tiny minority that may or may not even exist?

This put a stop to the proposal as it stands, for now.

We can make a difference by putting the voice of common sense back in our town halls.

N.D.



New British Union are in the process of establishing an official Sir Oswald Mosley day, this will be celebrated every November 16th.

A full report will be in the next edition of The Blackshirt

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION

The British Union of Fascists in East Ham, South West Essex

East Ham Blackshirts march to East Ham Memorial in Central Park to lay a wreath for the dead of WW1, Armistice Day, 11 November 1936 (Image, Blackshirt)

In the 1930s, the County Borough of East Ham was part of South West Essex. On 1 April 1965, East Ham was merged with West Ham to form the London Borough of Newham.

Map showing East Ham as part of Newham

According to the 2011 Census, Newham is only 16.7% white British, even less now.

The East Ham Branch of the B.U.F. was the oldest London formation east of Aldgate. It was founded in October 1933, one year after Sir Oswald Mosley

launched the British Union of Fascists in

London in October, 1932.

Prior to this, a Blackshirt group had been active in the area under the leadership of Thomas Sullivan, a 25 year old labourer, who lived at 28 Gillett Avenue, East Ham.

For example, the East Ham Echo reported that a physical confrontation took place between Communists and uniformed Blackshirts at a B.U.F. street meeting in Thorpe Road, East Ham on 29 July, 1933, three months before the East Ham Branch was launched.

Sullivan became the first Organiser of the local Branch, which established Headquarters at 1 Lloyd Road. This address served as the East Ham B.U.F.'s permanent base until the closure of the District movement in 1940.

As leader of the new Branch, Sullivan was supported by Section Leader Dean, a local man who supervised the 'District Defence Force' and ran physical training classes for East Ham Blackshirts. In addition, a Harley Street practitioner, Dr. Evans, was appointed 'Medical Officer' to the Branch.

The Blackshirt, January 12, 1934 reports

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION

on a meeting that took place on Thursday Jan. 11 in East Ham Town Hall. William Joyce was the guest speaker.

"Under the control of the East Ham Branch, a meeting was held in the local Town Hall on Thursday last. A/A/O Joyce was the speaker, and during the whole of the meeting he held the interest of the audience. Contrary to expectations no trouble was experienced. This was probably due to the well turned out Defence Force of the local Branch under S.L. Dean. East Ham has had a great deal of organised opposition, but the Branch has progressed, and spread the gospel of Fascism in the neighbourhood. D/A/O Sullivan has good reason to be proud of his Branch as the Branch is proud of him."

*East Ham Town Hall in 2004. William Joyce spoke there in January, 1934.
(Image - Wikipedia public domain)*

In 1935, Francis Osborn, a 35 year old married man with two children, took over as District Organiser. Osborn, who

lived at 289 Central Park Road, had previously been employed as a printer and was later engaged as a packer in the Commercial Department at B.U.F. National Headquarters. The new senior official was a dynamic fascist activist. Under his leadership, the East Ham B.U.F. won the movement's Sales Cup for the period January to March 1937.

The Blackshirt, June 5, 1937 reports on the Sales Cup Presentation by Sir Oswald Mosley.

"The Leader visited East Ham District Headquarters on Wednesday to present the Sales Cup. The Branch was packed to the doors with members who gave him a warm Fascist welcome.

"In an address to the members, the Leader said he was pleased that the Cup had come to East Ham, a District that was the oldest London District east of Aldgate, the Branch having been formed in October 1933. He complimented the members and D/L Osborn on their splendid achievement, especially as the Branch had had to work under many

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION

difficulties, not the least of which was that N.H.Q. made great demands on the time of the D/L. The Leader ended his address by saying how privileged are the members of the British Union to be making British History by their work for their country, seeking no reward save that Britain might live."

When Osborn was appointed as B.U.F. voluntary visiting District Inspector for east London in 1938, another local B.U.F. loyalist, Hugh James Howard, became the East Ham District Leader.

Howard, an accountant in his mid-twenties, lived with his parents at 24 Monmouth Road, East Ham. Howard remained in charge of the East Ham formation until 1940.

By mid-June 1934, open-air Blackshirt meetings were being held on Friday evenings in the County Borough next to the Cock Hotel in High Street North.

The building was demolished in 1996 following fire damage. Throughout the remainder of the 1930s, East Ham B.U.F. pursued propaganda work on a regular

basis. By the end of 1934, a women's section had been formed and was holding meetings locally. Female speakers from National Headquarters made frequent visits to Kempton Road during 1935 to address open-air gatherings.



OLIVE HAWKS

For example, the Blackshirt, 23 November, 1934 reports on a meeting in which Olive Hawks was the guest speaker.

"For the first time since the East Ham Branch opened, a meeting was held by the women's section, on Friday last. The speaker was Miss Olive Hawks, who handled the rather hostile crowd in a very capable manner. The women's defence force under Miss

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION

Marjorie Aitkin acted as stewards."



The Blackshirt, 12 April, 1935 reports on a meeting in which Ann Brock-Griggs was the guest speaker.

"A very successful meeting was held at Kempton Road, East Ham on Saturday, April 6. Mrs Brock-Griggs held the attention of an audience of over two hundred for about two hours. After the meeting a number of people requested that their congratulations be conveyed to Mrs Brock-Griggs. The Women's Section hopes to hold more meetings of this character in the near future."

Blackshirt activity remained a regular feature of East Ham street politics until

May 1940. Senior figures from national leadership, including John Beckett and Mosley, also periodically addressed public meetings in East Ham to promote the Blackshirt cause.

The local newspaper, the East Ham Echo, reports that the B.U.F.'s assistant Director of Propaganda, John Beckett, addressed an indoor audience at East Ham Town Hall on 29 October 1935. The number of attendees is not specified.

East Ham District Leaders, Osborn and Howard, were both interned in 1940 under Government Regulation 18b.

Most of the information used in this article comes from the book East London For Mosley by Thomas P. Linehan and from Fascism in East Anglia by Andrew Martin Mitchell, a Ph.D thesis.

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION



NEW APPOINTMENT

We are happy to announce the appointment of our new propaganda Officer;

My name is Adam Lacey, I am in my early twenties and I come from an English family with a French, Canadian and German descent.

I work as a salesman in the East Midlands area near Sheffield.

In my spare time I like to listen to music, play video games and do graphics and design.

I have been interested in politics for about four years now, in hindsight I can see that I was originally a leftist by indoctrination.

However, like many other people, I questioned the status quo and got the answers to the questions I've been silently asking myself for a very long time. It would be downscaling the issue to say it is only a problem within our island however the issues at present do go beyond our borders.

I understand, that laying the foundations for a stable movement is absolutely paramount. The nature of this movement is solid, and I believe with the structure it has, it will be successful. Even if it is slowly, at least it is surely.

I am a proud fascist, a proud Nationalist and now, I am a proud 'Propaganda Officer' for the New British Union.

As far as my history goes with this movement, this is my first stepping stone and believe me it was a leap. I have been following the NBU for a few years now. Now however, it is the time when mere words must give way to action.

I must thank everyone for their support and for making me feel instantly welcome, I am excited to be working alongside such honourable people and I promise you all I will give it my all. Finally, I want to thank Gary Raikes for the opportunity and for giving me a chance.

Hail Victory. Hail Raikes. Hail the NBU.

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION



PEOPLE
NOT
POLITICIANS
JOIN NOW
NEU
WWW.NEWBRITISHUNION.CO.UK

RESTORING
FAITH
IN
FASCISM

JOIN
NOW

WWW.NEWBRITISHUNION.CO.UK



FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION

FOUNDING OF THE BRITISH FASCISTI

When World War I broke out, like many women, Rotha (Beryl Lintorn-Orman) went to work, but unlike most, she did it by joining the army as an ambulance driver serving in the Women's Ambulance Reserve, and later the Scottish Women's Hospital Corps. She (earned) the Croix de la Charité (Cross of Mercy) for bravery, serving on the Drins Front in Serbia where she risked her life to get to wounded soldiers. Then she received another Croix de la Charité for her actions in the Great Thessalonika Fire of 1917.¹ Thessalonika was one of Greece's larger cities and a major transport hub for British and French troops moving to the front.

Later "In 1917, she was invalided back home with malaria, where she joined the Red Cross and became Commandant of the Motor School at Devonshire House, Picadilly, in charge of training ambulance drivers."²

In November, 1922, at the dedication of the cenotaph of the unknown soldier in Whitehall, London, the first English fascists who called themselves the "London Fascisti" carried flags with a be-ribboned fasces on a white pale edged both sides with an unknown opaque colour (possibly blue). They marched up to the cenotaph and laid several wreaths at the base of the monument. It is quite possible that Rotha Lintorn-Orman witnessed this action, for it is only six months later that she formed the British Fascisti into which the London Fascisti

In early 1923, just a few months after Mussolini's march to power in Italy, Rotha placed six advertisements in the right-wing journal of the Duke of Northumberland's newsletter, *The Patriot*, which read 'Seeking Anti-Communists', and within a few weeks, she had over 100,000 anti-communists signed up. Her mother, Blanche, granted her £50,000 of the family fortune and an allowance to run the movement. Many notable suffragettes such as Nesta Webster, were among the recruits,⁴ as well as many of the nobility, the middle class and high ranking officers of both the army and navy, and many veterans of the First World War.

The BF was then divided into various sections, which included sections for intelligence, transport, propaganda and publicity: There was an infantry section, too, composed of units of seven members (and a leader). These were the Fascisti shock troops who would eventually grapple with Red revolutionaries on the streets.

The BF's order of battle was further subdivided into men's, women's and cadet units, the latter embracing those members below sixteen years of age. Male and female County Commanders, operating within a county-based geographical framework, supervised the activities of the men's and women's units within their counties.

The BF had different categories of members. There were flying squads of young veterans and street fighters. Active members had to be age 21 to 45.

¹English Fascism. By Peter Crawford. 2013. britishfascisti.blogspot.com. Consulted 25/01/2019.

²britishfascisti.blogspot.com. Consulted 25/01/2019.

³Ibid.

⁴Ibid.

Non-active members formed a reserve that were available for rallies, canvassing, and selling the British Fascist Bulletin, British Fascism and later The British Lion newspapers.

A fascist corporate identity was engendered by a range of primarily members-only social and leisure functions and activities, which included dinners, garden parties, dances, balls, whist drives and playing in fascist soccer teams. An example of a Palace of Dance ball poster is shown below. Note Noel Coward was in attendance.

PALAIS DE DANSE
HAMMERSMITH
Friday, 6th March, 1925

BRITISH FASCISTS

Carnival Ball

THE TALE OF ABDOULLA, S.S. 12 MANICURES (Figaro, 181A Brompton Rd., S.W.) 2 STALLS (Aldwych Theatre) SOAP, SCENT & POWDER ("Thamar," Bouschamp Place, S.W.) DINNER & CABARET FOR TWO (Piccadilly Hotel, W.) NUMBER OF BOOKS (Autographed by Authors) TEA TRAY (Paarman's, Bournemouth)

Signed & Original Cartoons (W. K. Hazelden) Waterman "Ideal" Fountain Pen Lady's Silk Hand Bag Gentleman's Pigskin & Gold Pocket Case 200 Cigarettes ("Melachrine," Bond St., W.) Cushion (Marshall & Snelgrove Ltd.) Chocolates (Dowling's, Bournemouth)

Messrs. Spalding Bros. are also providing Prizes

Also Six Valuable Prizes presented by the Palais de Danse Management

Distribution of Carnival Novelties. Dancing 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

ADMISSION 5s. Dress as you wish

Tickets obtainable from FASCIST - G.H.Q. 71, ELM PARK GARDENS, S.W.10

Charabancs will run from a number of districts within a radius of 20 miles

GOD SAVE THE KING

MISS ROTH BERYL LINTORN-ORMAN



She was an unusual woman raised during the Edwardian period and being delighted by the regimentation and discipline of the (Girl) Scouts (which) appealed to her, as did its emphasis on a vigorous kind of life that respectable young Edwardian women were generally not encouraged to pursue.

Rotha's mother, Blanche Lintorn-Orman, started the first Girl Scout troop without permission of Robert Baden-Powell. She sent in applications for the girls but used only the initial of their first name and their family name. The ruse was not discovered until 1909. "By the end of 1908, there were 60,000 Boy Scouts, and troops began springing up in British Commonwealth countries across the globe. In September, 1909, the first national Boy Scout meeting was held at the Crystal Palace in London. Ten thousand Scouts showed up, including a group of uniformed girls who called

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION

themselves the Girl Scouts. Baden-Powell was shocked to see girls in uniform and said there are no Girl Scouts, to which the girls replied: "Yes there are, 'cos we are them". In 1910, Baden-Powell asked his sister to organize the Girl Guides as a separate organization."⁵

GIRL SCOUT ROTH A (AGE 15) AND BLANCHE LINTORN-ORMAN



Lintorn-Orman suffered from post traumatic stress disorder during the war, as did many of the male soldiers who had fought in the trenches. What exactly caused this may be related to the sight of ghastly wounds suffered by the soldiers.

"The end of the war signalled the end of her military service; men filtered back from the trenches and snatched away the brief glimpse she'd had of a prominent

public position. She drifted without much direction, began drinking heavily, and began to abuse drugs. Eventually, she moved to a dairy farm in Somerset, but she missed active duty [...] and kept her connection to those years by cropping her hair daringly short, wearing shirts and ties, and displaying her medals proudly on the peaked lapels of her jackets."⁶

With her mother supplying £ 50,000 pounds sterling to start up the British Fascisti and a monthly allowance, the British Fascisti was created on May, 8, 1923, and incorporated May 7, 1924.⁷

"The British Fascisti afforded Lintorn-Orman some control over a world in which she felt a powerless misfit, punished by the fact of her sex and her unconventionality. Indeed, she was one of a number of British women who came to this early incarnation of fascism, in part, because of a sense of self that could be neither expunged nor accepted by polite society."⁸

"Early membership largely came from high society, and included a number of women amongst its ranks, such as Viscountess Dorothy Downe, Lady Sydenham of Combe, Baroness Zouche and Nesta Webster. Men from the

⁵<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/boy-scouts-movement-begins>. Consulted 26/01/2019.

⁶<https://www.theparisreview.org/blog/2016/12/02/conservatism-with-knobs-on/>. Consulted 11/6/2017

⁷English Fascism. By Peter Crawford. 2013. britishfascisti.blogspot.com. Consulted 25/01/2019.

⁸<https://www.theparisreview.org/blog/2016/12/02/conservatism-with-knobs-on/>. Consulted 11/6/2017

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION

nobility also joined, such as Lord Glasgow, the Marquess of Ailesbury, Lord Ernest Hamilton, Baron de Clifford, Earl Temple of Stowe, Arthur Henry Hardinge and Lord Garvagh, who served as first President of the movement.

High-ranking members of the armed forces also occupied leading roles in the group, with (Brigadier) General Blakeney joined by the likes of General Ormonde Winter, Brigadier-General T. Erskine Tulloch, Admiral John Armstrong and Colonel Sir Charles Rosdew Burn, who combined a role on the Grand Council of the British Fascisti with that of Conservative Party MP for Torquay."⁹

"[...] Neil Francis-Hawkins (later of the British Union of Fascists), Major Charles Maxwell Knight (eventually an MI5 spy) and Arnold S. Leese (later of the National Fascisti and the Imperial Fascist League) were amongst those to have passed through the movement as members and activists."¹⁰

"At a more rank and file level the group attracted a membership of middle and working class young men who spent much of their time in violent confrontations with similar men involved in the Communist Party of Great Britain,"¹¹ which had been formed in 1920.

"The B.F. had female-only paramilitary units, and to encourage the involvement of mothers, it created the Fascist Children's Club. At one of the club's Christmas parties, Lintorn-Orman dressed up as Father Christmas, dispensed presents, and bounced toddlers on her knee. The B.F. also had several women on its executive committee who ensured their voices were heard."¹²

1923 BRITISH FASCIST RALLY IN HYDE PARK, LONDON



note the party emblem on the flag with the words BRITISH and FASCISTI flanking the emblem on either side.

It is reported that the active party membership was 50,000 but an original Type 3 member's badge has been seen with the number 56371. Lintorn-Orman in her declining days, as the party began moving to merge with the B.U.F., claimed over one million members, but that appears to be an act of desperation to stop the assimilation of the B.F. into the British Union of Fascists.

Many suffragettes joined the B.F. and rose to high rank in it. These same

⁹English Fascism. By Peter Crawford. 2013. britishfascisti.blogspot.com. Consulted 25/01/2019.

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹Ibid.

¹²<https://www.theparisreview.org/blog/2016/12/02/conservatism-with-knobs-on/>. Consulted 11/6/2017

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION

women later achieved high rank in the Women's Section of the B.U.F. which alleviated the idea that fascism would put women back into the home as had been done in Germany and Italy.

LINTORN-ORMAN IN UNIFORM, 1916¹³



"The B.F.'s activism, which comprised mainly strike breaking and the stewarding of public appearances of far-right speakers (such as Oliver Locker-Lampson's "Rout the Reds" rallies), but not the intimidation of journalists, or disruption of democratic elections that had been the signature moves of Mussolini's *squadristi*,"¹⁴ (blackshirt squads). "British Fascists did occasionally run candidates in local elections. In 1924, two of its candidates in the

municipal elections in Stamford, Lincolnshire, Arnold Leese and Henry Simpson, managed to secure election to the local council. Simpson would retain his seat in 1927 although by that stage both he and Leese had broken from the British Fascists."¹⁵

In 1924, the name of the organization was changed to the British Fascists (the "B.F."). This was to break away from the association with Italian fascism and remove the idea that Mussolini was financially supporting the British Fascisti. However, this name change resulted in the breaking away of a more ideologically fascist group called the National Fascisti (later the British National Fascisti).

The group also indulged in a series of high profile stunts, many of which were more in the vein of elaborate practical jokes than genuine subversion. In one such example five British Fascisti forcibly removed Harry Pollitt from a train to Liverpool, where he was due to address a National Minority Movement event, and attempted to bundle him onto a different train.

The general strike of 1926, severely damaged the organization as it failed to precipitate the "Bolshevik Revolution" that Lintorn-Orman had set the party up to fight. In fact, the strike was largely peaceful and restrained, and when it petered out "many of British Fascists most prominent members and supporters also drifted away from the group. The party journal, initially called The Fascist Bulletin, then British Fascism and finally The British Lion, went from a weekly to a monthly while the loss of a number of

¹³<https://www.theparisreview.org/blog/2016/12/02/conservatism-with-knobs-on/>. Consulted 11/6/2017

¹⁴Ibid.

¹⁵English Fascism. By Peter Crawford. 2013. britishfascisti.blogspot.com. Consulted 25/01/2019.

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION

key leaders and the erratic leadership of Lintorn-Orman, who was battling alcoholism, brought about a decline of activity. The group also became ravaged by factionalism, with one group following Viscountess Dorothy Downe and the old ways of the British Fascists and another centred around James Strachey Barnes and Sir Harold Elsdale Goad advocating full commitment to a proper fascist ideology. Having been hit hard by the split following the General Strike the British Fascists attempted to move gradually towards a more defined fascism, starting in 1927, by adopting a military style blue shirt and uniform in the style of similar movements in Europe..¹⁶

"Before long, however, the British Fascists began to advocate a more authoritarian government in which the monarch would take a leading role in government as well as advocating the establishment of a Benito Mussolini style corporate state, policy changes made possible by the departure of General R.B.D. Blakeney (President of the Grand Council), who was committed to representative democracy and whose main economic opinion was opposition to the gold standard. Even without Blakeney, they retained some of their earlier Conservative-linked views, such as loyalty to the King, anti-trade union legislation, free trade within the British Empire and a general preference for the rural, although these were bolstered by fascist influenced policies such as limiting the franchise, gradual purification of the "English race" and stringent restrictions on immigration and the activities of immigrants admitted to

Britain."¹⁷

"In a bid to reverse (its) decline, the party adopted a strongly anti-Semitic platform, In 1933, Lord and Lady Downe, both British Fascists, entertained Nazi German envoy Gunther Schmidt-Lorenzen at their country estate and suggested to him that the Nazis should avoid any links with (Sir Oswald) Mosley (of the newly formed British Union of Fascists), whom Lady Downe accused of being in the pay of Jewish figures such as Baron Rothschild and Sir Philip Sassoon."¹⁸

STRUCTURE OF THE BRITISH FASCISTS

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ROTHA LINTORN-ORMAN
& COMMITTEE HEADS

GRAND COUNCIL OF THE
BRITISH FASCISTI LTD.
PRESIDENT R.B.D. BLAKENEY
V.P. & HEADS OF DEPTS.
EXERCISING
SUPREME CONTROL OF
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S UNITS
& FINANCE

COUNCIL OF COUNTY
COMMANDERS

COUNTY COMMANDER

¹⁶English Fascism. By Peter Crawford. 2013. ¹⁷Ibid.
britishfascisti.blogspot.com. Consulted 25/01/2019. ¹⁸Ibid.

AREA COMMANDER

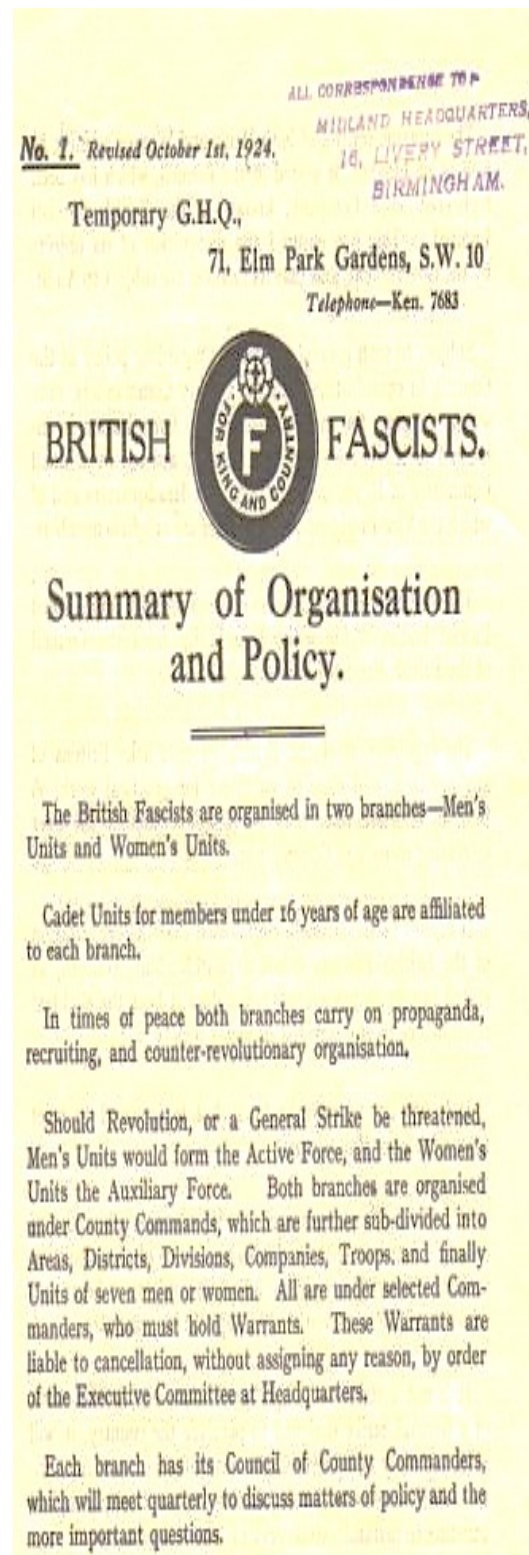
DISTRICT LEADER

DIVISION LEADER

COMPANY OFFICER

UNIT OF SEVEN TROOP LEADER
CADETS
MEN OR

AGE 12-15
WOMEN UNIT LEADER



FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION

BRITISH FASCISTS

"FOR KING AND COUNTRY"

OBJECTS.

1. To oppose Communism and any movement that is calculated to endanger the Throne, the Constitution and the Empire by all means in our power.
2. To endeavour to keep all Members who shall so pledge themselves, physically and mentally fit, by means of exercise, games, debates, etc.
3. To foster Pride of Race, the feeling that anything British should stand a world-wide test, and the knowledge that Country is greater than self, Religion greater than sect, and practical help in time of trouble is the greatest power against the forces of Communism.

The British Fascists have no connection whatever with any other Fascist movement either at home or abroad.

It strictly forbids its members to be armed with any kind of firearm, or to indulge in any kind of aggressive action.

The British Fascists are countering treachery by patriotism. Financial help earnestly solicited. Contributions are devoted to practical prevention of Communism and promotion of Patriotism. Services are Voluntary.

British Fascists



WHAT IS FASCISM?

Fascism is militant Christianity.

Fascism is a Force working for good comradeship, sympathy, mutual aid and loyalty, amongst all classes.

Fascism is therefore the avowed opponent of Bolshevism, Communism, and atheistical Socialism, the adherents of which preach the morbid doctrines of class hatred, unrest, and destruction.

Communism is international, adapting its methods to suit its surroundings, its chief form of propaganda as shewn in Russia, in the Balkans, and, in the first few years after the war, in Italy, is murder. In our country it takes the form of sedition, corruption of morals, the fostering of bitterness and atheism.

Fascism is also international. The British interpretation differs from the Italian in the same degree as the Italian and British mentalities differ. But the principles of honour, goodwill to all men, self-sacrifice, class-friendship and loyalty, are common to both.

The Communists in Great Britain seek to disrupt the various classes, to sow the seeds of dissension, malice, and civil strife, amongst their own countrymen for the alleged benefit of one class; although they are well aware that wherever Bolshevism or Socialism have been tried, the result has invariably been the universal degradation of all classes.

Italian Fascism is still maligned in this country, by people who prefer sentimental unrealities to hard concrete Facts.

We British Fascists realise and admire the wonderful spirit of patriotic devotion which enabled our Italian Allies of the last war eventually to save their country from the horrors of a Red Revolution—though not before thousands of loyal Italian ex-service men had been murdered by the socialists and communists.

We will not tolerate Bolshevism in this country.

Thousands of our ex-service men who have bitterly regretted the apparent disappearance of that wonderful spirit of good fellowship and good comradeship, so prevalent amongst all ranks and classes of men, between 1914 and 1918, have found that this spirit has not died, it is the spirit of British Fascism.

We Fascists are not concerned with party politics. Our motto is, "Be Loyal."

We wish every Fascist to be loyal to his or her own political opinions and religion, to our Crown and our Empire.

The present constitutional government will not last for ever.

The fate of our Crown and Empire in the hands of a disloyal government is obvious. But British Fascism has spread to the colonies, and where Fascism thrives, sedition and communism die.

Remember, Fascism stands for the unselfish co-operation of all classes for the common weal.

R. C.

All offers of financial assistance to -

G. H. O.

BRITISH FASCISTS.

297, FULHAM ROAD, S.W.10.

Information, etc., from "S" Dept., above address.

HERBERT FLACK, PRINTER, 315, KING'S ROAD, S.W.3.

ROTHA LINTORN-ORMAN AND HER STAFF

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION



Lintorn-Orman is seated in the centre surrounded by the nine officers of the Grand Council of the British Fascisti Ltd. and the department heads. Seated on Lintorn-Orman's right is Brig. Gen. R.B.D. Blakeney (ret'd), the B.F. de facto leader and President of the Grand Council of the British Fascisti and editor of British Fascism newspaper. He stayed in that position from 1924 to 1926. He changed the name of the organization to the British Fascists in 1924.

Blakeney abandoned the B.F. after the 1926 general strike and became associated with Arnold Leese's Imperial Fascist League and a member of the Nordic League, another extreme right-wing group.

NEW RECRUIT SWEARING IN CEREMONY




In the above photograph, a new British Fascist member is being sworn in using a bible and the officer is reading the text of the oath. We don't have the exact wording of the oath but it must have included a modified wording from the application for membership:

I, the undersigned hereby solemnly promise upon my Honour, to uphold His Most Gracious Majesty King George V. His Heirs and Successors, the established Constitution of Great Britain, the British Empire and the Christian Religion.

I undertake that I will render every service in my power to the British Fascists in their efforts to destroy all treacherous and revolutionary movements that may endanger the Throne and the Empire; and in their work for the betterment of all Classes of the Community, thus breaking down class hatred. To submit myself to such discipline as may be necessary for the keeping fit, physically and mentally myself and my Brother and Sister Fascists. The above to be honoured without fear, favour, or hope of personal gain.

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION

BRITISH  FASCISTS

ENROLMENT FORM.

I, the undersigned hereby solemnly promise upon my Honour, to uphold His Most Gracious Majesty King George V. His Heirs and Successors, the established Constitution of Great Britain, the British Empire and the Christian Religion.

I undertake that I will render every service in my power to the British Fascists in their efforts to destroy all treacherous and revolutionary movements that may endanger the Throne and the Empire; and in their work for the betterment of all Classes of the Community, thus breaking down class hatred. To submit myself to such discipline as may be necessary for the keeping fit, physically and mentally myself and my Brother and Sister Fascists.

The above to be honoured without fear, favour, or hope of personal gain.

I _____
of _____

(Block Letters)

having carefully read the above, accepting the Rules, and realizing the obligations therein, beg to make application for membership of the British Fascists and declare that the following particulars are true.

AGE .. RELIGION .. OCCUPATION ..
MARRIED .. NATIONALITY .. NATIONALITY ..
OF PARENTS .. SERVICE (if any) ..

I further solemnly promise that, if elected to membership, I will fully discharge the duties as above laid down, with such as may be added with the consent of the Council.

a. I am willing to take the Oath of Fealty as prescribed for ACTIVE MEMBERS knowing the minimum subscription to be sixpence per month.

b. I wish to be a NON - ACTIVE Member knowing the minimum subscription to be one shilling per month

(a) and (b) Cross out that which does not apply.

I will subscribe per Month.

SIGNED

DATE

Introduced and Witnessed by :-

1. Rank. Area.
2. Rank. Area.

Who shall have known the applicant for a period of not less than three months prior to the date of this application.

The above having been placed before a Council Meeting held on The applicant is accepted, rejected, placed on probation for a period of six weeks.

Badge No. Cash Received

Signed County Commander.

Q. M.'s Initials

THE B.F. ORIGINAL ROMAN SALUTE



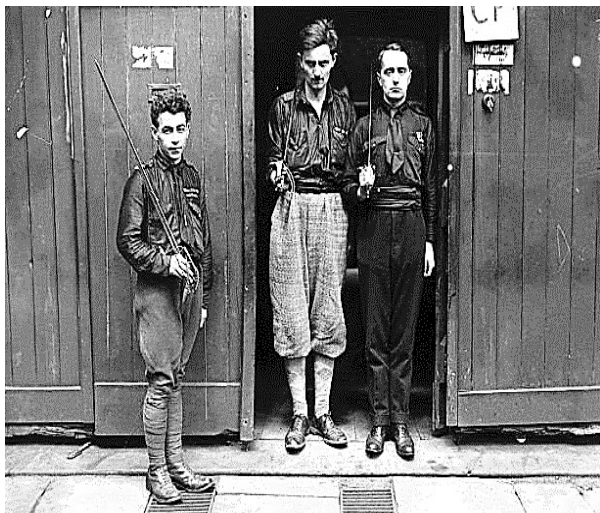
SALUTE IN MARCH PAST REVIEW



In the preceding photograph of a march past review, several marchers are not wearing the B.F. tie, none are wearing the beret and there are several colours of pants in the scene. The first six men are saluting using the Roman salute. The B.F. badge was placed on the left side of the shirt and when saluting the idea was to touch the badge with the right index finger during the salute. When meeting, British Fascists would salute each other in the same manner.

EARLY B.F. UNIFORM

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION



The man on the left of the above photograph is wearing the full defence uniform without the blue beret. He has black shoes, grey puttees, grey breeches, a blue cummerbund and blue patch pocket shirt with epaulets and a blue tie with a B.F. pin.

The man in the centre of that photograph has the shirt, cummerbund and no tie but is wearing civilian style pants and socks of the period.

The man on the right has the correct shirt, tie and cummerbund, but is wearing dress pants.

This, in conjunction with the photograph of the uniforms in the march past review, may suggest that other than the blue shirt and cummerbund some elements of the uniform were optional.

THE FULL B.F. UNIFORM WITH BERET



In this photograph two British Fascist members wearing the early full uniform are selling copies of the The Fascist Bulletin or British Fascism. The uniformed member in the centre of the photograph is wearing an enamel Union Jack pin above his left shirt pocket.

In 1927, as the B.F. organization began to advocate for the King to take over the lead of government, to stop immigration, and to adopt a traditional fascist ideology, a new military style uniform was created. This can be seen in the following photograph.

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION

POST-1927 MILITARY STYLE B.F. UNIFORM



The ranking system and cloth badges of the British Fascists are lost to history, but seem to be derived from the Italian rank system. In the above image, the two bars on his epaulet are some kind of rank and the vertical arrow on his shirt sleeve may either be a department or the nordic Tyr rune meaning "warrior". Compare this epaulet to the epaulet of Lintorn-Orman on page 3. Her epaulet has "GHQ" (General Headquarters) on it and two sets of rank bars.

Below is a grade VII (7) Italian fascist rank lapel pin. Since Mussolini's march on Rome occurred in 1922, it is reasonable to consider that Lintorn-Orman adopted something like the Italian fascist ranking system for her British Fascisti. Unfortunately, there are too few surviving examples of the ranking system to categorize the badges of rank. The meaning of the cloth patches too, is lost.



ITALIAN FASCIST RANK BADGE



ORIGINAL POST-1927 B.F. BELT AND BUCKLE

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION



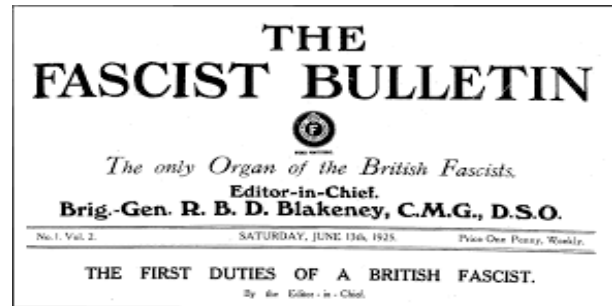
QUICK RELEASE FASTENING



This belt could be used as a flail because it was generally not strung through belt loops but rather worn on top of pants and the heavy buckle could injure an attacker. The later British Union of Fascists belt could have one or two hooks rather than the one shown here and it was also used as a weapon when needed. When assembled with the Sam Browne shoulder strap put through an epaulet, it could no longer be used as a flail.

The British Fascists produced a newspaper call the British Fascist Bulletin, then British Fascism and finally The British Lion. Below are copies of the

mastheads.



BRITISH FASCISM MASTHEAD



BRITISH LION MASTHEAD (Oct.-Nov. 1927 ISSUE)



THE BRITISH FASCISTS IN SCOTLAND

"Basically, (the British Fascists) were an (extreme) Conservative movement, obsessed by the threat of civil emergency, the B.F. fought the shadow of the Russian revolution. It seemed that fascism had come to save Italy from Bolshevism. Lintorn-Orman's movement

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION

would be based upon this new, virile regime."¹⁹

"Scotland played its role in this burgeoning movement, notably in the case of the Eighth Earl of Glasgow [...]."²⁰ He had witnessed the brutality and horror of the communists as Lord Kelburn when he landed at Vladivostok in 1917 to help British subjects stranded by the events of the First World War.

The British Fascists "had a Glasgow branch and city centre headquarters, and marched in Glasgow on Armistice Day, 1924."²¹

The Fascist Bulletin of June, 1925, carried a report by the woman Area Commander of Edinburgh about "Womens' Units and Fascist Sunday Schools." In that report she noted that she was "greatly struck by the predominance of the very poorest kind of women, who were among the very keenest members".²² In her mind she stated: "this is due to two things: the wearing of uniforms by all members who can afford to do so, thus doing away with class distinction, and the fact that kitchen meetings are held everywhere, especially in the poorest parts of the cities. A further point of interest very noticeable in the Scottish units is the fact that the slack member has been almost entirely "eliminated".²³

"The Earl of Glasgow described the fascist movement as a lifebuoy for a

drowning man".²⁴ "In July, 1925, The Fascist Bulletin announced that in Glasgow, fascists had inspired the spirit of patriotism. There had been clashes with Communists at the Central Station. The Fascists had boarded the train [...] taken by the Communist leader: down the aisle, they had sung 'Rule, Britannia' and the national anthem, drowning out the communist anthem 'The Red Flag'."²⁵

On August 16, the Fascists demonstrated at the Ross Street Unitarian church against the minister who continually preached revolution and "there were actions against the Red Councils of Action in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Methil. Scottish Fascists set up children's clubs, and sold Fascist cigarettes, ties and pennants."²⁶

The Glasgow Womens' Section learned jiu-jitsu just as their southern sisters had done. So too, they were not allowed to carry weapons under headquarter's orders. In March, 1926, they held a fund raising bazaar with entertainment. A Troop Leader in the Tradeston Branch of the B.F. loaned out motorcycles from his shop to increase distribution of B.F. literature. It was reported that: "he has the nucleus of a mobile column which may prove very useful".²⁷

The Glasgow Branch had what was called a "Helping Hand Fund" to help the less fortunate Fascist women members.

In May of 1926, the General Strike dealt a blow to the progress of the B.F. in Scotland when the strike collapsed precipitously. In June, the British

19Fascist Scotland. By Gavin Bowd. Published 2013 by Birlinn Ltd., Page 12.

20Ibid. Page 12.

21Fascist Scotland. By Gavin Bowd. Published 2013 by Birlinn Ltd. Page 12.

22Ibid. Page 13.

23Ibid. Page 13.

24Ibid. Page 13.

25Ibid. Page 13.

26Ibid. Page 14.

27Ibid. Page 14.

Fascism newsletter was renamed 'The British Lion' and continued to reiterate the fascist principles of loyalty to the King, class friendship, improvement of social conditions, preferential treatment of veterans, and purification of the British race.²⁸

By mid-1927, the Glasgow Branch was asserting itself again. They demonstrated against the 'Glasgow Occult and Psychic Investigation Society' which had predicted an all-out class war by the end of the 1920's. A Troop Leader made a speech from the floor saying: "that they (the members of the society) were nothing but Bolshies and their doctrines nothing but unadulterated polluting Bolshevism."²⁹

With the Wall Street crash of 1929, unemployment in Scotland rose to 27%. A singular identity could not be found to rekindle the B.F. In the south, Lintorn-Orman was in her last days and by 1934, The British Lion sent out its last issue and the British Fascists sputtered on for a short period and then collapsed.

THE BRITISH FASCISTS IN IRELAND

Rotha Lintorn-Orman, beside setting up branches in Scotland had also set up British Fascist branches in Ireland. Called the British Fascist Irish Command, these were located in Dublin, Belfast, Kilkeel and County Down. In other words, the B.F. was both in Northern Ireland and in the Irish Free State. In 1926, a split occurred and a Northern Command in Ulster and a Southern Command in Dublin were set up. The

Southern Command relied upon loyalists for its membership, which was apparently very small.

In the South Down area around Kilkeel, the leaders were all female. Their leader was Dorothy Grace Harnett. She also edited The Fascist Bulletin. Lintorn-Orman visited Ireland in 1927 and held meetings at Belfast, Newcastle, Newry and Kilkeel. The main occupation of the B.F. in Ireland was whist-drives, dances, assisting Unionist candidates at elections and canvassing.

Dorothy Harnett's influence ended in 1933 when the B.F. organization fell into financial difficulties and was eventually wound down.

THE BRITISH FASCISTS IN AUSTRALIA

The B.F. in Australia was started in April of 1925. Little information about them is available but there was an article in the Sydney Morning Herald on November 4, 1925 detailing the same principles as the British original B.F.

PINS AND ACCOUTREMENTS OF THE B.F.

There are three enamel membership pins that were used by the B.F. All have been faked and so it is very difficult to identify an original enamel or cloth badge if there is no provenance attached to it. Besides regular party pins, there were versions of the party pin with an under-lying scroll with an officer's rank in it.

²⁸Fascist Scotland. By Gavin Bowd. Published 2013 by Birlinn Ltd. Page 14.

²⁹Ibid. Page 15.

TYPE ONE - KING'S CROWN B.F. PARTY

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION

BADGE



brought that symbol into the Type 2 badge.

SUFFRAGETTE ROSE



TYPE TWO - SUFFRAGETTE ROSE REPLACES KING'S CROWN

Manufacturer - J.R. Gaunt & Son London
& Birmingham Medal Co.
Size - 25 mm diameter

Attachment - button hole attachment.

Year of Issue - 1923

Withdrawn - 1923/4 replaced with Type 2 pin.

The government ordered these withdrawn as the BF did not have permission to use the Royal Crown. The button hole version shown above is a reproduction. Extant originals are extremely rare.

The women's suffragette movement used a rose as its central symbol on a number of enamel pins and Lintorn-Orman



PARTY MEMBERSHIP No. 7826

Manufacturer - Gaunt London

Size - 25 mm

Attachment - Horizontal pin and hook

Years of Issue - 1924

There are two types of markings on the back of all badges. As shown above in raised letters the markings can say: "R^d N^o 703184". On an earlier type, in raised letters, it can say: "REGISTRATION APPLIED FOR" with a Party No. and Gaunt London impressed into the metal. Note one period on each side of the rose.

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION

TYPE 3 - ROSE AND CHRISTIAN CROSS REPLACE SINGLE ROSE



PARTY MEMBERSHIP No. - 16293
Manufacturer - Birmingham Medal Co.

Size - 25 mm

Attachment - An horizontal pin and hook
in lower numbers and vertical pin in
numbers in the 40,000 range and up.

Year of Issue - Prior to 1926.

Reproductions - Beware of any badge
numbered in the 19,000 series unless it
has provenance. Many of these copies
were created by nicholasmorigi.com who
bought the Birmingham Medal Company
and therefore the dies to make these
fakes.



In general, an original
badge will show yellowing
of the silver, have
scratches or chips. A few
that were properly stored
can be similar to the one
at the top of this page, with only a
dulling of the silver.

B.F. OFFICER BADGES



The above Type 2 badge is thought to be
a 1924 issue officer's badge. The badge
has membership No. 6160 with a
horizontal pin and hook. These were
replaced with the standard black Type 3
B.F. Officer badge with scroll as shown
following.



OFFICER PARTY MEMBERSHIP No. - 470
Manufacturer - Birmingham Medal Co.
Size - 25 mm

Attachment - Correct vertical pin and
hook but also a soldered long pin was
used.

Year of Issue - pre-1926.

Reproductions - Unknown. A very rare
badge and when they do show up they
are expensive.

TROOP LEADER MEMBER No. - 681

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LI



W BR



N

The exact make-up of the B.F. is only partially understood. A Unit consisted of 7 men or women with a leader of the same sex. Three Units made up a Troop of 24 Fascists including the leaders. Several Troops formed a Company led by a Company Officer.

What number of men or women comprised a Division, District, Area, County is not known at present.



This is a very interesting enamel badge from the British Fascists (1923-1934). It is County Commander badge No. 302.

This badge belonged to a very famous lady, Viscountess Dorothy Downe of Scarborough. Lady Downe was born in 1876 and was a former Lady-in-Waiting and lifelong friend to Queen Mary and god-daughter of the late King George V.

She went on to become the County Commander of North Riding Yorkshire County Command of the British Fascists.

She went to a number of fascist meetings in Yorkshire. The Scarborough Evening News, 8th December 1927, did an article where Lady Downe, County Commander of the Women's Units of the British Fascists presented prizes. She said that; "We Fascists are NOT capitalists, we are the Workers' Party."

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION



released MI5 documents show Dowager Viscountess Dorothy Downe (shown to the left in a wedding photograph 1902), also described as "still a protégé of Queen Mary", had her mail intercepted at her Norfolk seat of Hillington, near Sandringham, and was noted as a "most fanatical admirer of Hitler".

She joined the high profile British Union of Fascists in 1937, but escaped the fate of fellow aristocrats such as Sir Oswald and Lady Diana Mosley, despite a covert attempt to get herself locked up, she was not interned during the war because arresting too many aristocrats might give the public the wrong idea of enemy importance, according to British Security Service (MI5) files.

A 1940 letter to the Times by lawyer, Oswald Hickson, which MI5 believed to have been sent with the approval of the Dowager Viscountess, asked why the British Union of Fascists parliamentary candidate had not been interned like other supporters.

Just- The file records that Lady Downe, who apparently was at a lunch at the Criterion in London's Piccadilly Square, also attended by B.U.F. leader Mosley, was also said to have "for some time almost entirely supported the National Fascists out of her own pocket".

However, a missive to Sir Alexander Maxwell, then Permanent Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, in September 1940, states the department's reasons, despite her being "undoubtedly" a B.U. official. MI5 believed she was not playing an active part in the organisation of the movement, and was not concerned in spreading pro-Nazi propaganda she had told Norfolk police of her disgust at Germany's invasion of Norway, Holland and Belgium and had taken down her photographs of Hitler.

The anonymous writer added it was thought she had joined the B.U. because of a fear of communism, and there were "indications" she was anxious to become a martyr. However, it was "also considered that the internment of a person of Lady Downe's social standing might give the public a wrong impression of the importance of the British Union of Fascists. "This consideration would of course have carried no weight if Lady Downe had really occupied a vital position in the British Union organisation."

This opinion tallied with a minute from May 1940, which notes "if too many titled people are arrested the public might get the wrong idea as to the importance of the Fifth Column in this country".

An interview with Dersingham police's

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION

superintendent was reported in a letter to the officer's chief constable in May 1940, in which he states: "There is no doubt that Her Ladyship is an ardent and unrepentant fascist, which she avers is quite possible without the slightest disloyalty to this country, rather did she regard fascism as the most definite sign of Britain for the British." She told him things were done much more "efficiently" in Germany and Italy, but it was "laughable" that fascists were disloyal to Britain. However, a letter the following day to the officer seems to indicate the Lady Downe's political sentiments were changing. She was "very sore and angry that people should think that I should ever be a traitor to my own country". Should an enemy parachutist come to seek help from her, she wrote she intended to notify officers by telephone using a code relating to her.

A November 1940, entry in the heavily redacted MI5 file, released today at the National Archives in Kew, went rather farther in its assessment of Lady Downe: that although she would like to put herself in the position of a martyr "we regard her as a rather stupid old woman and we have been unwilling to gratify her desires in this respect".³⁰

Surprisingly, a number of County Commander badges examined are numbered in the high 200's and lower 300's. This might suggest that they were made in a single run and their serial numbers are a separate series from the regular membership pins.

MODERN REPRODUCTION OF TYPE 2 BADGE



A very well made replica of the Type 2 badge and on the reverse the correct raised wording but the maker's name is "BUTLER'S", i.e., Andrew Butler.³¹ A great filler for a collection if you cannot find an original.

This British Fascist enamel badge shown on the next page was produced in Italy. Although the dimensions are unknown, the enlarged photographs show the details. It is a British Fascist pin that may have been sold to raise funds for Lintorn-Orman's group and worn by her supporters.

³⁰http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/norfolk/4775682.stm. Consulted 14.12.2018 for all quotes.

³¹<http://www.6thjune1944.com/index2.html>. High quality reproductions.



The maker was F.M. Lorioli and Castelli via Milano. What year these were produced is not known.



Note the lion's head inside the Italianate fasces axe head. This lion head would adorn the British Union of Fascists second and third type Party membership badge at a later date.

ENGRAVED STERLING SILVER TYPE 2 PIN,
CUFF LINKS



BUTTON HOLE ATTACHMENT



The above cuff link badge measures 16 mm in diameter.

Another badge that may be from the British Fascists is shown below. It was auctioned in 2015 by 25 Blythe Road Ltd.

WOMEN'S ACTION GROUP

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION



There are no markings on the back of this medal.



BRITISH FASCIST "WE HOLD TOGETHER" MEDALS

Early in 1923, the British Fascists issued a number of different "We Hold Together" medals. Unfortunately, they used a King's Crown on a brass bar to which was attached the ribbon and medal. As with their early membership pin, the government had not given permission for the British Fascists to use the Royal symbol and so these medals were withdrawn and replaced with the "We Hold Together" pin without a ribbon or mounting bar.

This is likely the first issue medal. Note: the King's Crown and the fasces without an axe. The axe would have symbolized the authority of the state (which the B.F. did not have). The medal measures 1 inch in diameter. The pin is approximately 2 3/8 inches long.

B.F. WE HOLD TOGETHER MEDALS



The adjacent medal is the first one to have any raised markings on the back of

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION

the metal disk. It has "REG. APP^D. FOR" in a curve at the bottom of the back of the medal. The



application for registration once made, was refused because of the use of the King's Crown without



REVERSE OF LAST WE HOLD TOGETHER MEDAL



permission of the government.

Note the differences between the following medal and all previous medals.

The rondel is now a pale blue. A tri-colour watered silk ribbon has been added back is APP^D. raised curve at of the and on the the "REG. FOR" in letters in a the bottom medal.



Sometime in 1924, the government ordered these medals withdrawn. They were replaced with just the 'We Hold Together' as a pin without the King's Cown or a ribbon. It used both a button hole or long pin attachment.

There is no explanation as to why there are so many variations in the ribbons. It could be that as the medals were created, perhaps in batches as membership rapidly increased, the manufacturer just used whatever ribbon was handy. Alternately, it may be that the different coloured ribbons have some connection to organizational boundaries of some kind. Since this writing another pin with a tan ribbon has been seen.

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION

FINAL "WE HOLD TOGETHER" PINS



The raised lettering on the back of the pin is: R^D N^o 711 (the rest is illegible). Other pins do not have any raised letter or numbers (possibly the early versions). Below is an example of the pin with a stick pin. Presumably it had the same raised lettering on the back of the disk.



ORDER OF THE FASCES OR FASCIST ORDER OF MERIT

One B.F. distinction award that did exist, but for which there are no proven examples, is the Order of the Fasces. It came in a silver and bronze grade.³² This was awarded to men and women. One example of an award to a woman occurred as a result of an action on the "20th. July, 1933, Oswald Mosely's Blackshirts raided the British Fascisti headquarters at 22 Stanhope Gardens. Fifty to sixty men smashed the ground

floor window, and entered. They overturned office furniture, and attacked four members of the British Fascisti, including one woman, Mrs Florence Waters, (the) House Officer, who was struck on the head with a chair and had to be treated in hospital.

On 6 May, 1934, [...] among those receiving the Order of the Fasces was Troop Leader Mrs. Waters "for loyal service and presence of mind on the evening of 20th. July, 1933, on which occasion she helped resist the attack when a party of men wearing blackshirts raided General Headquarters."³³

POSSIBLE FASCIST ORDER OF MERIT, BRONZE GRADE



BRITISH FASCIST STEWARD'S BADGE

³²The Fascists in Britain. By Colin Cross. Publ. 1961 by Barrie Books Ltd. Page 62.

³³English Fascism. By Peter Crawford. 2013. britishfascisti.blogspot.com. Consulted 25/01/2019.

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION



with other stewards. This particular steward was an early member of the B.F. as his (or her) Type 2 membership pin was numbered '39'.

BRITISH FASCIST HEADQUARTERS BUILDINGS 1923 - 1934



The diameter of steward's badge rondel is 2 7/8 inches and length of ribbon is 3 7/8 inches. The rondel is made of heavy cardstock covered front and back with faux leather and embossed with gold lettering and designs. It uses a safety pin to both hold the ribbon on and for pinning to clothing.

71 Elm Park Gardens, Chelsea, London.
1923 - 1926

LINTORN-ORMAN AT HEADQUARTERS



BRITISH FASCIST STEWARD'S ARMBAND



This brassard has a 17 inch circumference and is 2 inches wide. The "UD" is likely an auditorium section where he or she was in charge along

AT WORK INSIDE 71 ELM PARK GARDENS

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION



SECOND HEADQUARTERS



99 Buckingham Palace Road, Victoria,
London. 1928 - 1933
Now the Shakespeare Pub



297 Fulham Road, London. 1926 - 1928
THIRD HEADQUARTERS



22 Stanhope Gardens, Kensington. 1933 -
March, 1934.

It is to be noted that the building at 22 Stanhope Gardens is the only house on the street that has had its street number removed! This is the building in which B.F. Troop Leader Mrs. Waters and three other B.F. members fought with

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION

Blackshirts in July, 1933.

SUMMARY

The British Fascists were a phenomenon of the interbellum years. Other than being an extreme Conservative movement, they had little in common with the later fascist movements on the continent or with the British Union of Fascists. They were only mildly anti-Semitic, very religious, and generally composed of middle and upper class people and many veterans of the First World War. Following the B.F., many hard core fascist movements such as Arnold S. Leese's Imperial Fascist League, William Joyce's (Lord Haw-Haw) National Socialist League, the National Fascisti, and Mosley's British Union of Fascists were organized.

Many of those B.F. members such as John Beckett, Alexander Raven Thomson, Neil Francis-Hawkins, Arnold S. Leese and Major Charles Maxwell Knight (the MI5 spy) and many of the rank and file members, broke away from the B.F. in 1932 in its declining last years, to join Sir Oswald Mosley's British Union of Fascists which was formed in October, 1932.

When Neil Francis-Hawkins and John Beckett deserted the B.F., they took with them a large number of male B.F. members and, more importantly, the membership and subscription lists of Lintorn-Orman's British Fascists. That left only 500 members of the once largest fascist group in the United Kingdom.

By this stage, Rotha Lintorn-Orman's mother had cut her off financially after

hearing lurid tales of debauchery involving the fascist leader and so the group fell into debt in 1934. It was temporarily saved by Lieutenant Colonel H.C. Bruce Wilson, who offered to guarantee a £500 bank overdraft. When called upon to discharge his guarantee and on failing to recover his money from the organisation, (he) entered an unopposed petition to wind it up."³⁴

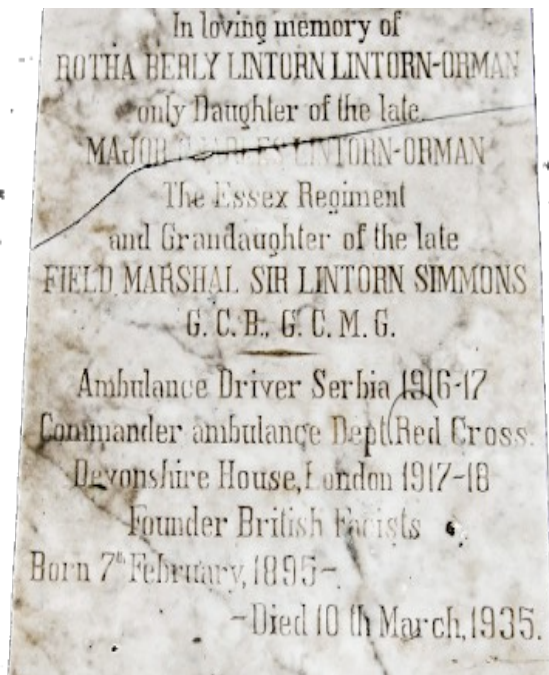
After suffering a heart attack in 1932, "the picture of Lintorn-Orman that emerges from the mid-1930s is one of a desperately ill woman who had lost control of her life. By 1934, MI5, the British intelligence service, believed her to be receiving treatment for a serious alcohol related illness. A few months later, in March 1935, she died at the Santa Brigida Hotel on the Canary Islands, at [...] (age) forty."³⁵ She was buried in the English Cemetery there.

LINTORN-ORMAN'S GRAVE STONE (ENGLISH CEMETERY)

³⁴Northern Ireland and British Fascism in the inter-war years. By James Loughlin. Irish Historical Studies xxix, no. 116 (Nov. 1995). Page 551.

³⁵<https://www.theparisreview.org/blog/2016/12/02/conservatism-with-knobs-on/>. Consulted 11/6/2017.

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION



In loving memory of
ROTHA BERYL LINTORN LINTORN-ORMAN
Only Daughter of the late
MAJOR CHARLES LINTORN-ORMAN

FIGHTING EIGHTY YEARS OF LIES - THE NEW BRITISH UNION